

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL DURHAM, NH 03824 ISSUE TWO DECEMBER 21, 2011



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MAKING THE [BUDGET] CUT



Adelia Couser
Guest Writer

At its most recent meeting, the School Board put aside a recommendation to cut \$500,000 from the current budget in favor of exploring cuts to four positions, bus repairs, and technologies.

The prospect of deep budget cuts drew enough people to the high school that scores of community members gathered in the senior core to watch the meeting on TV screens set up for the overflow crowd.

Entering the December 7 meeting, the buzz around Oyster River concerned the board directing Interim Superintendent Leon Levesque to slash half a million dollars from next year's district budget.

After about five hours of deliberation, with the meeting ending around midnight, the board decided to further explore cutting the following positions and budget items: a part-time math teacher and an assistant principal at the high school, the middle school athletic director stipend, a data manager position, \$40,000 in bus repairs from the transportation budget, school board salaries, and \$50,000 from the technology budget—including broadcasting equipment, promethean boards, and replacement computers.

The board is also considering adding three items into the budget: a first grade teaching position at Mast Way, an elementary math coach position, and middle school bathroom renovations.

The current school working budget is a little over \$37 million, and these cuts and additions will lower the budget to approximately \$36,864,867.

"When all was said and done, around \$90,000 was cut, give or take a few thousand dollars. The high school is scheduled to lose an assistant principal and a part-time math teacher," said high school principal Todd Allen in an interview after the meeting.

Despite not cutting the full \$500,000, several community members still expressed dissatisfaction at the board.

"At points of time, I was very frustrated with the lack of respect [the public was] getting—one speaker even pointed out that [the board] didn't look interested in public comments," Pranav Nanda, president of the high school's junior class, said in an interview. "The meeting dragged on a lot once again, going into the early morning after starting well before seven. Tensions flared, and they were not handled well at all, with School Board members criticizing each other's credentials, to yelling at the School Board [representative] when he asked for everyone to cool down...I was very disappointed on how it was handled."

Community members expressed concern for what they perceived as a lower quality of education in the future due to fewer teachers, as well as outrage at the board for allegedly keeping the budget process secretive.

"Even someone without experience in our schools will see that a cut will hurt our students."



A line of community members patiently waits their turn to address the board during the December 7 board meeting.

Photo Credit: Ian Avery

"You have created an atmosphere of frustration and mistrust within the halls of our school community," Lee resident Lynn Graves told the board.

"Even someone without experience in our schools will see that a cut will hurt our students," said John Collins of Lee. "You're destroying the fabric of this community, and it's disgraceful."



Principal Todd Allen speaks to the board about how the cuts will affect the high school. Photo Credit: Ian Avery

The public's sentiment was not lost on some members of the School Board.

"Almost every single letter the board received has asked us not cut the budget," stated board member Ann Wright. At the meeting, the board reported that they have received at least 36 letters concerning the budget cuts: 34 expressed concern, and only one was in favor. "It seems pretty clear to me that the community does not want us to cut [these things]."

A second board member, Megan Turnbull, said in a later interview that the board has also received unkind letters concerning the cuts. "Some people don't even have the courage to sign their own name, and I really don't see how that's helping the children at all. We didn't run for School Board just to sit around—we try to put the students first."

In an emailed response to *Mouth of the River*, Wright explained how the board began discussing the potential of a cut of half a million dollars: "Henry [Brackett] suggested a \$500,000 cut, and Ann Lane made a motion to that effect. Her reasoning—and I believe this is shared by the majority of the board—was that we all need to 'tighten our belts' this year because of the lower student enrollment."

Anne Knight, chair of the advisory budget committee (ABC), stated during the meeting that the district's enrollment rate is predicted to drop 20%, from a current approximated 2,000 students to 1,600 in the year 2021.

According to Allen, "The board figures that if the student population goes down, the number of teachers will have to go down, so that's why they're proposing to cut teachers—among other things—out of the budget."

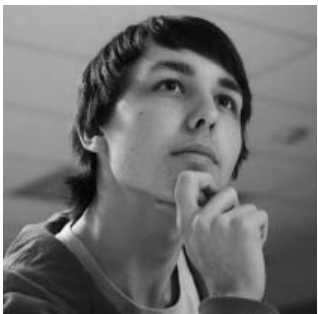
Originally, the board was also considering cutting one paraprofessional from both Mast Way and Moharimet, one guidance counselor position at the middle school, an art teacher position at the high school, and the Oyster River television station from the budget.

Nanda strongly encouraged students to contact their class president or a school board member (via letter, phone, or email) and attend future school board meetings in order to stay informed on the issues.

"The most important thing you can do is talk with your parents!" added Nanda. "As kids who are under 18, we do not have votes, but your parents do."

There will be a budget hearing on January 12 in the school auditorium at 7 p.m. to discuss the budget, and a straw poll of the audience may be conducted. "What we as kids plan to do at that meeting, we will let you know," Nanda said.

Allen stressed that at this moment in time, the final decision rests with the board. "I'm going to trust the process. I believe the process will work itself out," he concluded.



Genja Teleganov
News Writer

WHO'S YOUR DADDY NOW?

On the morning of October 26th, 2011, New Hampshire's favorite musical instrument store, Daddy's Junky Music, was shut down for good. No one expected it to happen. They seemed to be doing fine for the 39 years that they've been open. Ac-

cording to an article in Berklee News, Fred Bramante started the chain of Daddy's Junky Music stores in 1972, and soon enough it became one of the largest musical instrument retailers in the United States. The stores were scattered across the New England area, with New Hampshire having most of them. Daddy's Junky Music was founded on the premise of tax-free instrument shopping. Because of this, the chain was immensely successful in New Hampshire, where there is no sales tax. From the beginning, Daddy's has been selling both used and new musical instruments. Its instruments were available for free play and use, offering customers an amazing selection of guitars, drums, mixers, and other musical instruments and product. Anyone could walk in, pick up a guitar, plug it into an amp and play. People loved the store for this, and interestingly enough, this became the store's demise. People in search of an instrument would visit the store and try the instrument out. After deciding that they should buy it, they wouldn't buy it from the store itself. They would go online and look for a lower price, where there would also be no sales tax. With the rise in the availability and accessibility of the internet, websites like Amazon.com and Musician's Friend quickly began to consume the sales that Daddy's Junky Music had. Along with this, the economy has been in a decline for the past four years, and thus, people have stopped spending their money on their hobbies. Eventually, this was enough to end the company.

According to the Boston Globe, many Daddy's Junky Music stores still hold some of their customers' instruments. Many people went to Daddy's to have their instruments repaired and maintained, and now those instruments are

lying in the stores, waiting to be returned to their owners. Likewise, many people had ordered instruments by phone from Daddy's, and those items are also missing. According to Bramante, the company's service department in Manchester is taking care of these missing items, making sure they are sent back to their rightful owners.

Many musicians from Oyster River themselves have bought instruments from Daddy's. Andrew Armstrong, a senior, bought his guitar amp from Daddy's in 2009. "People there were really helpful," he says. "They ex-

plained everything well and gave me a lot of options that fit my budget." Matt Carey, also a senior and guitarist of Imagine the Escape, bought his guitar from Daddy's. "They had really good deals there. Being able to pick up and play guitars was way better than looking at them online."

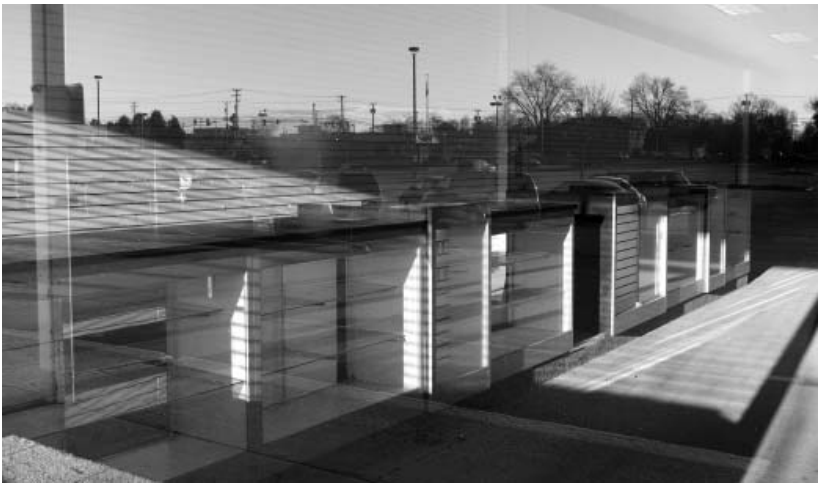
After the closing, many musicians will have to look elsewhere to buy their equip-

ment. Buying an instrument is a selective process. Ordering online doesn't guarantee you the same exact guitar that you tried in a local store. For this reason, many musicians still buy locally and support both large and small businesses. After the closing of Daddy's, there are only a handful of instrument shops left in the area. Earcraft Music and Ralph's House of Tone in Dover are the closest. There are two guitar shops in Portsmouth and one in Exeter. The nearest store that belongs to a chain is Guitar Center, and the closest one to here is in Danvers, Massachusetts. It is uncertain what will happen with the remaining empty stores, but they will most likely be rented to other businesses.

Local and distant musicians alike grieve the closing of Daddy's. Music is part of our common soul, and Daddy's was the reason our local musicians were able to make the music they make. Thousands of people bought their instruments directly from the store, and seeing it go is surely a sad reality to face.



Daddy's Junky Music in Portsmouth, NH, now closed.



The empty shelves of Daddy's. Just a few weeks ago, they were stacked with musical equipment.



The DJ section of the store, now empty.



Alex Harling
Editor-In-Chief

"Best show ever!" was the response from Oyster River High School student, Hannah Grant when asked how the Avicii concert was at the Whittemore Center last November. "It was the greatest night of my life."

On Saturday, November 19, the Whittemore Center in Durham, New Hampshire was home to excitement and entertainment for over four thousand people. Avicii, currently one of the biggest names in electronic music played a show with two other DJs, Olik from Berlin and Joe Bermudez, totaling a

"I had the most fun at this concert than any other concert I have been to"

four hour concert. Performances from all three artists featured state of the art light shows. NV Concepts, a private production company, was responsible for the excellent show.



Joe Bermudez (left) was the second act of the night and prepared the crowd for Avicii.

Avicii, also known as Tim Berg, is from Sweden and has been performing since 2008. He opened his set with "Fade into Darkness" at about 10:00 PM and didn't stop playing till he walked off the stage around 12:15 AM. Highly anticipated songs that he featured in his set were, "My Feelings for You," "Penguin," and "Levels." Katie Burzon, a student at Oyster River High School said, "The lights and the music were really well synced. I had the most fun at this concert than any other concert I have been to."

The opening act, Olik from Berlin



The Penguin on stage during the song, "Penguin."

AVICII AT THE WHITT



Avicii rose to fame in 2010 and has been touring ever since. Photo Credit: Emmet Todd

"Greatest night of my life"

shared, "Just getting up there in front of everybody is amazing. You can only see so few people in the crowd with the lights on but you can feel the energy and it's fantastic. Dance music has really taken a rise in the United States, especially in the last year. It's incredible to be a part of it."

Avicii has been on his fall tour since the beginning of October traveling all over the United States, Canada, Brazil, Australia, and countries in Europe. He plans to come back to New England to play at the Mullins Center in Amherst, Massachusetts on January 31.

Dance music, or more specifically house and electronic music, is rising in popularity throughout the United States and has become a popular genre. DJs such as Deadmau5, Daft Punk, Benny Benassi, David Guetta, and Skrillex are responsible for this recent interest due to the mainstream tone

and eurodance influence in their music.

SCOPE (the Student Community of Popular Entertainment) plans to hold another large show in the spring which has yet to be announced. On November 29, SCOPE brought the band, Two Door Cinema Club to the Fieldhouse



Photo Credit: Emmet Todd

in Durham. NV Concepts plans to return to the Whittemore Center on February 8 with the French DJ, David Guetta, during the Winter White Tour.



Olik from Berlin (right), was not only the opening act but he also has a weekly radio show called, "Eurotrash."



Alex Harling
Editor-In-Chief

NEW TV & NEWS PROGRAM

Here at Oyster River High School, students are very fortunate to have access to and experience with things that many other schools can't offer. Video production is an exciting class that has up to date technology. This year, video production students get to partake in our school's first television program that will be aired in the cafeteria and available online on our school's website. Mrs. Young, the school's Video Production teacher was a main supporter of the show right from the beginning. "A lot of schools have video announcements," said Young, "we are getting behind."

Mike Crotty is one of the hosts as well as a writer and producer for the show. He explains, "The idea came up when I was a sophomore and we wanted to do a news show called ORTV. The show came out alright and this is basically a new and improved version of it."

Young hopes that there will be more TVs to come. "We have to start small with one TV in the cafeteria. Soon there



A new TV has been posted on one of the walls of the cafeteria. The TV will feature video announcements. Photo Credit: Aaron Slepian

"A lot of schools have video announcements. We are getting behind." - Mrs. Young

"We just try to give the news without boring people to death" - Mike Crotty



Mike Crotty, a host, writer, and producer for the show believes the news program has a bright future.
Photo Credit: Aaron Slepian

will be TVs in relevant locations in school that can provide good information." This is the just the first phase in the large plan for the TV show. "As the semester goes on," Crotty said, "the show gets better and better."

A new show is scheduled to play every other week after the initial show airs. Alexander Taylor, a Video Technician at the school said, "I could see the shows becoming more frequent." Both Young and Taylor would like to see the show provide a regular outlet that informs students about current school events and happenings. The TV could also broadcast sports events and school board meetings. Crotty said, "We try to keep the show more exciting, rather than just regular news. Although there are a lot of interview type segment, we just try to give the news without boring people to death."

Our school is fortunate to have a large amount of video equipment and we should take advantage of it. "Our school has a very good video production program," Taylor said, "The students produce quality work, and there are still several avenues to expand the program greatly"

If you would like to become involved in the Bobcat TV program you can take the video production course.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Sophie Webb
News Co-editor

5th Grade Mentoring

Fifth graders often have tons of energy, especially after a long day of school. The fifth grade mentoring program involves a group of fifth graders coming over to the high school to play games and interact with the high school students, typically every other Thursday of the month. “The most rewarding experience from fifth grade mentoring is when you go down to the Middle School and non-fifth graders



recognize you,” says Marty Thornton a senior here at the high school. Sophomore Kelly Murphy added, “Fifth grade mentoring is awesome because you can let the kids know that the high school is perfectly safe, and they will be your friends forever.”

Visitation of the Elderly

Sometimes all that an elderly citizen needs to brighten their day is a short visit from a young person. Every other Monday of the month, a group of high school students visit the elderly at Kirkwood Corners. It feels great to brighten somebody’s day, even if it is simply doing a craft with them or playing with clay. It is very rewarding to see the smiles on the elderly people’s faces after you have spent the afternoon brightening their day. “I liked visiting the elderly because I enjoyed listening to their stories,” says freshman Annie Batchelder.



Stocking Stuffers

It feels so good to wake up on Christmas morning to a stocking stuffed with little gifts, especially if you are a little kid. Stocking Stuffers is a group that provides underprivileged families with gifts for their children. People involved in the club receive a stocking and stuff it with little knick knacks for a child of a certain age or gender. The stockings go to Crossroads Homeless Shelter for families in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and to brighten somebody’s day on Christmas. “We are trying to stuff 100 stockings this year. We encourage people to come to the learning lab in future years to get a stocking to stuff,” said seniors Rachel Ameduri and Morgan Howard.



Relay for Life

The Relay for Life is an event to show support for those suffering through cancer by walking all day and through the night because cancer never sleeps. Besides the walk, the Relay for Life teams here at school put on the big prom fashion show coming up in April. Individually, the Relay for Life teams can raise money by doing smaller fundraisers like bake sales and car washes. “I think it is important to have the program because so many people have a connection to the issue and it is easy to get involved with and it’s fun,” said senior Paige Moody.

Beach Cleanup

The health of our world is a very important thing. Pollution, litter, and fossil fuels all impact the health of our environment. Every little thing that we do to help make our world cleaner makes a difference. The beach cleanup community service program meets typically on weekends, cleaning up trash at the beach. They had their first meeting on Saturday, November 19th.



Cocheco Valley Humane Society

Animals like cats, dogs, horses, and bunnies require a lot of time and resources to take care of. A group of students volunteer at the Cocheco Valley Humane Society every first and third Thursday of the month. The visits include playing with the animals, walking them, and feeding them. “I joined Cocheco Valley because I want to help the less fortunate animals,” said freshman Amy Halstead.



Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

Most of you have plenty of food in your cabinets and fridges, a table to eat it at, and forks and knives to eat it with. Some people are not as fortunate. Two times a month a group of students from ORHS go to “My Friends Place” in Dover to cook dinner and serve it to people less fortunate than themselves, and they clean up after as well. Sophomore Isabelle Beagan said, “My Friends Place is just like a good, nice, honest, place and you know you’re helping people when you go.”

Holiday Gift Wrapping

Things always seem to get busy around the holiday season, and sometimes you just need a little help wrapping gifts. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, students from ORHS go to the Fox Run Mall in Newington to wrap shoppers’ gifts. The proceeds go to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. “You’re basically being little elves,” said community service coordinator Susan Wilkinson.



Special Olympics

The main focus of the Special Olympics community service group here at the school is to get students involved in the Special Olympics. A huge part of every competitive sport is fans cheering on the athletes. The Special Olympics are no exception. Students will be taking part in the Penguin Plunge, the winter games, and the summer games. They are looking for anyone from volunteers to fans to cheer on the athletes.



Special Olympics

THE END OF A MAGICAL PHENOMENON



Jenny Taylor
News Writer

Harry Potter: the worldwide phenomenon that took not only our generation, but all generations by storm. We grew up with Harry Potter, and it became a large part of many of our childhoods, not to mention teenage lives.

"Harry Potter *was* my childhood. I learned about it in kindergarten and fell in love. It was my life, and the books

and movies have influenced me so much," says Catherine Geiger, sophomore. Many students share this passion for the magical world of witchcraft and wizardry, and were sad to see it end this summer.

Erin Leahy, senior, describes the end of the movies as, "Sad, but beautiful." Although the release of the final movie, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2, on DVD came with sentimental, melancholy feelings, many feel that the Harry Potter phenomenon is not indeed over.

"I feel like it hasn't completely ended, to be honest! There are always going to be people reading it for the first time, seeing the movies for the first time, and experiencing the thrill of the series," says Annemarie Lelio, senior. Nathaniel Spence, junior, shares the same feelings: "I don't think it's really over, in all honesty. The nice thing about it is that there will be many interpretations of it. I think that Harry Potter will become our modern day Hamlet, taking upon many interpretations of how it will be seen."

No matter how long ago they came out, many students, let alone people, have re-read them countless times. Madi Clement, junior, has read each book at least 12 times over the course of 10 years. This supports her belief that "Harry Potter will never be over."

For some students, it wasn't just the material in the books and movies that drew them to the series; it was also the fan atmosphere. Blake Caple, junior, had never read the books, but went to the midnight premiere for both of the Deathly Hallows movies and says he's sad that Harry Potter is over because he "liked all the excitement."

Rebecca Taylor, junior, also went to a premiere and showed her dedication to the series by dressing up: "I went to the Deathly Hallows part 1 premiere and most certainly dressed up. It was fun to see everyone gather to celebrate our love for these books and movies, or just the phenomenon that is Harry Potter." Erin Leahy not only went to movie premieres, but also book releases: "Two book [releases], and one movie [premiere]. Yes, I very much did dress up. They were awesome! Great energy, excitement, adrenaline and caffeine, etc. Very fun experiences, especially because of the friends I was with."

Even though our generation was in high school when the final movies came out, many of our peers at ORHS attended the midnight premieres: why? "The books are for all ages and all ages love them, yes they are considered children's books and they came out when we were children, but they belong to everyone, young and old," Taylor explains.

And so here we are, with no more Harry Potter books or movies to be released, but fear not Harry Potter devotees. As Blake Caple says, "VIVA LE POTTER."

ARE VIDEO GAMES BECOMING AN ADDICTION?



Emerson Maclean
Co-Editor of News

We have all played video games at one time or another. These virtual realities help us to relax and forget the troubles of everyday life. Our generation was at the forefront of what most believe to be the "golden age" of video games. We were exposed to ever increasing graphic qualities, styles of gameplay, and diversity amongst the games themselves.

Because of this, video games are still very popular among many high school kids. But when do video games become too much? Is there an addiction corrupting the minds of our student body?



Senior Cody Jacobsen plays Nintendo 64 in the core.

Elliott Young, senior, thinks that video games have had a negative impact on some kids in the school. "I play video games once in a while but some kids' lives revolve around this alternative reality." Young stated. He also mentioned that procrastination issues occur from "excessive gaming."

Eric Mulligan, senior, added to Young's comments, "video games seem to take over many of my friends lives." Mulligan said. "It has even gotten to the point where most kids will refer to some of these video gaming individuals by their online name instead of their real one."

Other students however, see video games as "just another form of entertainment" that at times can be "therapeutic."

"I love video games!" said video game advocate Matt Fenerty, senior. "When I'm at school, I sometimes get an urge to play my video games." Though some might see this urge as a distraction, Fenerty uses it as a drive. "It's like any other urge you would get when faced with schoolwork-like watching TV or hanging out with friends," said Fenerty. "I just get the work over with; it's nothing new!" Fenerty provided proof of his statement by pointing out that he is an honors student.

Fenerty also uses video games to manage stress from everyday life. "When I am stressed out, I like to sit in a comfortable chair and let myself get lost in a video game." Fenerty said. "I can't speak for everyone, but for me, it's a distraction that's both fun and beneficial!"

Video games have risen in popularity immensely over the past ten years and have affected everyone in some way. Whether we like it or not, the growth in the video game industry will increase in coming years, which will have an effect on how people live. "Pretty soon video games won't be games, but a lifestyle!" Fenerty said.



THE WILD CHILD SATISFIES AT UNH



Chad Burns
Features Writer

The smell of steak, pizza bagels, and fresh apple cider fills the space of the small but comfortable trolley car. The trolley bell echoes through the backstreets of UNH as a group of frat boys fork over a tip. The next customer's breath is visible, as it hits the cool morning air. "Medium coffee" she mumbles, through her winter scarf. "Cream or sugar?" asks Dylan Long, co-owner of Wild Child Express. "Both please." Behind this college student, a line of caffeine-and breakfast-deprived people, exponentially grows. The line grows impatient, but the people in line ac-



The Wild Child Express showing its true colors at night.
Photo Credit: Ian Avery

cept the wait, because of the delicious return in the end. Owner Dylan Long of the Wild Child Express moved up in the food truck world when he and his father, Paul Long, closed down their cart of 12 years, which was formerly a sausage cart, in front of Home Depot. After closing it down, they bought an old trolley cart and opened up their new food truck, expanding their menu past sausages. "Buy American, be American," Long joyfully said, as he explained the basis of their menu. Trying to help support local businesses is one of the things that Long and his father are very proud of. They boast fantastic seasonal treats such as un-pasteurized apple cider, and apple cider donuts to complement the warm or cold drink.

A basket of fresh lemons hang from the ordering window. This basket is not just for show, but is actually the ingredients for their fresh squeezed lemonade. "The thinner the skin, the more flavor the fruit has," Long explained to me upon

ordering this cool refreshing drink. To add to the lesson on picking fruit, the lemon concoction is also squeezed and mixed right in front of your eyes.

Some other menu items include, grilled breakfast sandwiches, waffle sandwiches, toasted pizza bagels, sausage or meatball subs, pulled chicken sliders, and more.

With several other food trucks in town, Wild Child Express tries their hardest to stand out from the rest. "Our personality is one of the biggest things that set us apart" says Long. "Also my dad Paul, has a degree in Hotel and restaurant management, and I have a business degree." Long believes this is a major advantage that allows them to stay open in the competitive market of food truck.

"Our personality is one of the biggest things that set us apart"



Another happy customer receives her hot coffee.

Photo Credit: Ian Avery

So next time you find yourself wandering around the interworkings of the UNH campus, keep an eye out for The Wild Child Express, and give them some support by stopping by. Who knows, maybe they will even ring the bell for you.



THE DIFFERENT CLASSES OF ZOMBIES



Billy Sturtevant
Features Writer

When a zombie outbreak occurs, panic is the human emotion most likely to surface. This will cause large amounts of casualties from not knowing what to expect, because there are many different types of zombies.

A cult horror favorite and the source of many sci-fi stories, zombies originally existed as just the walking kind, and for the sake of this document they will be dubbed as “walkers” (no copyright intended). Walkers are the most common zombie type and are known for being slow. Anyone can easily run around them if they have a cool head and keep in mind to avoid the walker’s unfathomable hunger. However, humans should also remember that walkers can easily crawl through some hazards and stand up again. It also depends on how many zombies there are. You and any other survivor(s) should keep in mind the time, any close or convenient escape, and how many supplies you have. Also, people should always have a spare hide-out and memorized their surroundings. But if escape is out of the question, then remember that just because some zombies recall past human locations, they are not the same as before and uncontrollable. The only way to kill a walker is destroying the brain, decapitations work with rare varying results, but smashing the skull, shooting or stabbing the brain neutralizes the threat.

“Crawlers” were later introduced in the undead phenomenon and they are the least dangerous type of zombie, as they are slower than the walkers. Crawlers are similar to walkers, except for the fact that they were originally handicapped or injured at the leg. They are the easiest to dispatch due to being extremely slow and having reduced strength, although they too can crawl through most barricades. To kill a crawler, a head shot works as well as a strong kick in the head. If you need to you can run around them to make a quick escape, altogether avoiding any major conflicts.



“Thinkers” are a speculated type of zombie. Mysterious in origin, no one knows if there is a vague hope of humanity still left somewhere in their rotted brains. It is not yet proven how they gain intelligence, whether it’s based on conditioned/forced learning or random coincidence. They are potentially dangerous, as thinkers can operate equipment like guns and doors like other humans. But they do not bother trying to fight back unless provoked. It has been seen that thinkers may lead a horde of mixed classes to perform a certain goal. It is undecided if this is the zombies’ route for an evolutionary cure, or a spell of disaster for humanity.

“Runners” are the rarest type of zombies and are easily the most dangerous, but they can be killed by most weapons. Because of their increased stamina, they don’t have to be shot in the head as they sacrifice a lot of their structural build for speed. An extremely aggressive breed, they will do whatever it takes to get their meal and can usually break through doors or barricades a lot faster than the walkers. Runners were originally introduced in the classic movie *28 Days Later*. They were seen as intelligent beings, for the runners could kick down doors, run up stairs, scramble over fences, and cars, and climb up ladders.

Runners are now considered the “new zombie” and have been recently placed in games like *Resident Evil*, which introduce the runners as people infected by parasites that control their will, causing them to kill. *Left 4 Dead* kept them just as runners (parasite-free) but added in new classes, as well like hunters, witches, (insane people or, an intelligent zombie that attracts humans with their moans before attacking savagely), boomers (zombies that throw up their innards to stun/blind victims and attract food), and tanks (large monsters that are creations from the base virus but were previously experiments from the virus). These were based on creatures from *Resident Evil* and *Dead Rising*.

The stories about the living dead were created from the voodoo religion, as it was said that shamans (people who communicate with the dead) and witches could bring the dead back to life as servants. The idea of the dead coming back to life to kill those still among the living has been seen in other myths as well, and soon the idea turned into the *Living Dead* movies, created by George A. Romero. With new movies and games like the new series *Dead Space*, involving a space parasite that takes over the recently deceased to eat the living, as well as other movies and comics like the extremely popular *The Walking Dead*, it seems that the undead hype still shuffles along and keeps on living, looking for another tasty bite into the topic.



*A Necromorph from game “Dead Space.”
(Image from armchairempire.com)*



Poster for the classic Italian zombie flick, “Zombie.”

*Image on the left is an example of “runners” from the video game “Left 4 Dead.”
(Image from giantbomb.com)*

DAILY DOSE OF MORIN II



Adelia Couser
Features Co-Editor

You’re playing a rough game of basketball against your fellow PE classmates, and the competition’s turning dirty. Suddenly, a scream of pain pierces the air. A body smashes against the floor with a resounding THUD. Everyone pauses to gape in horror at the gasping teenager who has just collapsed; he’s clutching an unnaturally twisted finger as his complexion slowly darkens to deep scarlet.

Then, a shining light fills the gymnasium. The footsteps of cherubim echo across the room as three silvery figures, almost blinding with their perfection, approach this wounded martyr. You humbly avert your eyes from this sight as an angel choir begins to chant heavenly melodies tinged with honor and wonder. The central godlike figure lifts the student as if he was no heavier than a mere bag of potato chips, and, with a reassuring sparkle of white teeth, appears to glide away from the scene in a shimmering cascade of stars, carrying the victim to shelter and flanked by the accompanying angels.

As the light slowly fades, you notice a feeling of . . . happiness. Utter bliss, almost. You find yourself bringing your hands together in time with your classmates’ applause. Some students are crying with the beauty of it all, and you’re forced to wipe away a single tear that has found its way down your cheek. Thank you, you whisper softly to the magnificent figures. You fall weakly to the ground and press your forehead in reverence to the polished wood that has been made spotless by their flawless feet. Thank you.

Sound familiar?

John Morin, ORHS physical education teacher, has witnessed his fair share of wounded students. “[Gym class] is an active environment,” he says, “and we’ve had a variety of injuries. In my 15 years of teaching, I’ve seen one broken collarbone, some bloody noses, four broken fingers, some sprained items, people running into walls, and one broken foot.” The collarbone, Morin explains, was caused by a student attempting to perform a backflip on cross-country skis: “It was not suggested. It was not welcomed. It just happened.”

When students injure themselves, Mr. Morin does not, sadly, always carry them away in a shimmering cascade of stars. “We take them down to the school nurse, to Danuta Richards’s office,” Morin explains. “She does a nice job helping students with their injuries when needed; she calls the parents, nothing too crazy.”

Morin and Richards couldn’t carry out this job alone, however. The two angels that complete this rescue squad are none other than Amy McPhee and Don Maynard. “Without their greatness and support, working in the trenches of Oyster River High School physical education would be an unbearable, difficult hardship,” states Morin, without an ounce of hesitation. “I clearly need their constant guidance. I wouldn’t be able to go through my day-to-day process if it wasn’t for them.”

While doing a backflip on cross-country skis might sound fun to a highschool-age boy, the PE team never wants people to hurt themselves. Ever. Another important thing for the staff is making sure that everyone’s included. “Everybody should have some movement in their lives, but we don’t care about physical skill; that’s not important,” insists Morin. “People don’t have to have a large amount of physical skill to be successful in life. Be sure to include everybody all the time; that’s the experience of being in PE, and that’s what we strive to do.”

“It was proudly one of the most frustrating and sad moments of my life.”



Mr. Morin once lost a badminton game to a student named Matt Campbell.

MR. MORIN’S MOST TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE AS A GYM TEACHER.

We assumed Mr. Morin was an unbeatable force in all the sports this mortal world has to offer. We believed he could battle his way fearlessly through any tournament against mere high school students.

We thought wrong. “It was four years ago,” Mr. Morin begins, and a dark cloud seems to settle over the room. “His name was Matt Campbell, and I had gone through a couple years of teaching him through freshmen and sophomore gym classes. He came back [to work] as a PE mentor and [hang out] during lunchtime. It was proudly one of the most frustrating and sad moments of my life.”

But yes, it’s true: our gym teacher has been beaten by a student in badminton.

“I don’t remember the score, specifically,” continues Morin, wiping away a small tear, “but it wasn’t good. [Matt Campbell] was pretty stinkin’ proud; did a victory dance and everything. I banished him from the gymnasium.” Following this event, Morin didn’t play the sport for an entire year, and even considered moving away. “It was the most traumatic experience . . . I can’t think of anything worse.” Flames enter Mr. Morin’s eyes. “I need a sign – a fire underneath Matt Campbell, a circle over his face with a red line through it: ‘banished from gym, never to return, etc. etc.’ I wasn’t sore, though,” he adds quickly. “I had no injuries.”

Incidentally, I was able to find the offending Matt Campbell, and he confirmed that this experience did indeed occur. (“A couple of times, actually.”) Campbell stated via Facebook that he is glad to hear that he can still bring pain to Morin years after the incident occurred, and adds, “Any time he’s looking to lose 15-2 again, just let me know.”

Q AND A WITH MR. Q

Oyster River Students anonymously asked Mr. Q questions and advice. Read on if you dare...

Q. Mr. Q my good friend has recently started “dipping.” It was ok at first, but now it has gotten out of hand. Sometimes he throws up, and this frightens me. What should I do?”

A. First of all, never swallow the dip. Dipping is bad; however, people assume it is safe because it is smokeless. You should warn him of the dangers of nicotine.

Q. Mr Q my good friend has recently recovered from meningitis. Ever since he got back from school, he has felt self conscious about both his physical and mental changes. He tells me that he cries at night. I know that needs advice, but I have none to give. Any suggestions?

A. To people who are good friends, these changes don’t matter. What matters is you are still here. With these changes, it gives you a challenge, a challenge to make yourself better and grow more as a person.

Q. What’s your favorite thing about teaching health?

A. Listening to stories, telling stories, seeing my class mature, having people feel comfortable enough to come to me to talk about their problems.

Q. Did you really used to show a video of your wife birthing?

A. No - I do not even own a video camera

Q. My parents have been fighting a lot recently. What color should I paint my living room to fix this?

A. Blue, light blue, medium blue. Ask the art department because I have no decorating experience.

Q. How should I get enough confidence to ask my true love on a date?

A. Understand that rejection is part of dating. You could be underhand and get people to find out if this person likes you or not, but going right up to the person and asking will get your answer much quicker.

Q. I feel like the media has really glamourized the use of heroin, is there any benefit to it?

A. No. I will say no again.

Q. Any tips on long distance relationships?

A. Like a phone call, just hang up. You two are far apart, interests are changing and you are not around to support each other. We know that some of these work out, but at a younger age, changes happen so fast that they tend not to.



Photo Credit: Ian Avery

Q. Hey Mr. Q, My “girlfriend” has anemia, will this affect our “relationship”?

A. No. Just remember to make sure she has a high iron diet!

Q. Mr. Q, recently the love of my life has gone and dated someone else outside our circle of friends. I feel betrayed. What should I do?

A. Move on! It might have been the “love of your life” but you are only a high schooler. If this one doesn’t feel the same about you it wouldn’t be a good relationship anyway.

Q. Mr. Q, I recently started dating a boy on the basketball team; I’m a little younger than him and he is not very good at basketball; how long do you think this will last?

A. Well if he isn’t very good at basket basketball he might have a lot more free time to spend with you. in the next few weeks. It is hard to say how long the two of you will be in a relationship for because you don’t have a lot of time to spend together.

Q. Hey Mr Q, My girlfriend thinks that having and raising a baby during high school would be a fun/beneficial experience. Am I the ‘crazy one’ for not wanting this?! How can I convince her otherwise?

A. We are all a little crazy, but having a kid during high school is not really beneficial to anyone. It is an added stress to not just the mother, but the family, and even the father. Any goal that person may have will need to change because now everything should revolve around the baby.

Compiled by Christian Sbrilli...I guess

GETTING TO KNOW “JUKEBOX THE GHOST”



Alex Harling
Editor-In-Chief

Jukebox the Ghost is a three-piece indie rock band from Washington, DC. They have a new album planned for the spring and are beginning a tour with Jack's Mannequin in January. Jukebox the Ghost will be coming to the State Theater in Portland, Maine on February 2nd, as well as the House of Blues in Boston on February 3rd. They will be playing with Jack's Mannequin and Allen Stone. Tommy Siegel, the lead guitarist of the band, was courteous to talk with me and answer some questions about the band, the upcoming tour, and the new album.

Alex Harling:

The band has toured with Ben Folds and Nightmare of You and you guys will be touring with Jack's Mannequin in January. What other big acts have you toured with and who were the most fun?

“You can completely split it open & do weird things to it”

Tommy Siegel:

More recently this year we toured a lot with Barenaked Ladies and Guster. Those are two of the bigger ones. We did 5 weeks in Europe with James Blunt. Guster and Barenaked Ladies are like the sweetest dudes ever and we are good friends with both of those bands. I think it's nice to see bands doing what they're doing 20 years down the line and they are still having fun on the road.

AH: You said you toured with James Blunt in Europe in October. What is it like touring over there compared to here?

TS: Well it was such a different tour than the kind we do here. They were the biggest shows we have ever played. James Blunt is kind of a one hit wonder here, but in Europe he has like ten huge hits or something. It was an arena tour so we were playing to 6,000 to 12,000 people a night. It was totally insane. The crowds were really good and I think they liked us. It's really hard to tell with the language barrier but they seemed like they liked it. A lot of people bought some CDs from us so I am curious to see what will happen when we go back; whether or not people will come see us by ourselves.

AH: You do some pretty interesting covers live, such as, “Never Gonna Give You Up” by Rick Astley, “Careless Whisper” by Wham! and “Power of Love” by Huey Lewis and the News. These are popular songs but you don't really hear bands playing them live. Why do you guys choose these songs?

TS: Well you know it's funny, earlier in the band's career we kind of just, we are sort of primo perennial crowd pleasers. We just want to make the crowd happy. So part of our cover selection isn't necessarily songs we listen to or even people we consider to be influential to us. It's more just like, “what would be a really wild funny cover to end a show?” We always have fun doing them and rearranging them. It's more fun to do if you don't love the song



Jukebox the Ghost live on their European tour last October

because you can completely split it open and just do weird things to it. It's very random. Lately our covers have sort of been chosen by us sitting in the van. We are listening to the radio and a song comes on and we think, “This song is ridiculous” and then we cover it. Not the most deliberate process.

AH: Where did the name Jukebox the Ghost come from?

TS: It's kind of a random combination of words to be honest. The words themselves have various sources, but we were all just trying to think of a new band name. I came up with jukebox, Ben came up with ghost, and Jesse wanted us to be a “The” band. So we put the “The” in the middle.

AH: The band's newest video, “Half-Crazy,” is a stop motion piece. It is hard to imagine the amount of work that must have taken to film it. What was that like?



Behind the scenes of the music video, “Half-Crazy”

TS: It took forever. We only spent 3 days on it but it felt really long because they didn't do those faces and mouths in post production. They actually hand drew 2500 mouths. So I was standing there and they would take one mouth off, tape the other mouth on, take a picture, and it went on like that. I don't even want to think how many frames are even in the music video. I had to get good at not itching myself.



Jukebox the Ghost from left to right: Jesse Kristin (drums), Ben Thornehill (piano and vocals), Tommy Siegel (guitar and vocals)

AH: Who are some of your influences?

TS: Our influences are pretty much all over the place. When we do an interview, we are frustrated by our lack of unity when we try answering that question. Ben is not a big rock or a indie rock listener or anything like that. He is more of a classical and jazz kind of guy. You can hear it in the songs he writes. I am a big old school, 70s and 80s new wave and punk bands. I like a lot of current stuff too. Deerhoof is my favorite band in existence at the moment. Jesse, he's a huge fan of Harry Nilsson, the Replacements, Big Star, and Blondie. So we are

all over the place. When we get into the van we don't really agree on what to listen to; in general, whoever is driving gets to pick whatever they want to listen to and everybody else sort of grins and bears it. We are totally all over the place and we all listen to different music but somehow it ends up working for the band. If we were a DJ act we would have broken up a long time ago.

AH: You guys have two solid albums so far in your career; “Let Live and Let Ghosts” from 2008 and then “Everything Under the Sun” in 2010. Should fans be expecting another album 2012?

TS: They should. We are almost done with record number three. We are young and at this stage in our lives we can put all that energy into the band. We don't have families or

children that we have to worry about or anything like that. We have kind of been touring all year and whenever we have not been touring we have been working on the record. We have been working on it a lot over the summer. We have been working on it for the last two weeks and I would say we are about eighty percent done and we are hoping to finish in the next 3 to 4 weeks. I guess our goal is to put it out later in the spring but we'll see what happens. The album will go out on vinyl. We are big vinyl geeks. I am only an mp3 and vinyl listener and so is Jesse; we have both got big collections. Even though they don't sell a lot of copies we always make sure we have our records on vinyl.

"The new record is really exciting"

AH: What is the upcoming album like?

TS: The new record is really exciting, I mean, I am proud of the records we've done, but no one has any illusion of thinking of any of our albums as our magnum opus. They all have their issues, things when we listen back we weren't really happy with either because we didn't have enough time or we didn't have enough money or whatever. Sometimes you don't realize these things till after you are done. For this new record, I think we are all on the same page and we all just love it. The producer we are working with is putting his all into it and we could not be happier with the way the record is coming out. From the band's perspective it's our favorite thing we have ever recorded so we are really excited about it. It's different; it doesn't have the sci-fi bent that some of our older albums do. It just feels like more clarity of purpose. We are all on the same page trying to accomplish the same thing. On the older records, you could pop one on and go "oh that's a Ben song, that's a Tommy song", and this record I think for people that aren't as well acquainted with the band it might be difficult to tell who wrote what song. We were all working on some kind of common vision.



AH: Are you looking forward to touring with Jack's Mannequin?

TS: Yeah, that is going to be a great tour. We are really excited about that. We have never

met them before and to be honest I haven't heard much of their music, but I am really looking forward to it. The booked venues we are playing are awesome and I've heard nothing but good news about Jack's Mannequin through friends who know them.

AH: What do you think of New England? Are you excited to come back and play here?

TS: Yeah we love New England. Portland is a great town for us and Jesse is from Boston so we stay at his parents' place when we come through. It's a big beautiful house on the water. We love playing the area because that means we get to stay there.

AH: What do Jesse's parents think of a rock and roll band staying with them?

TS: They are cool with it. We pretty innocent on the scale of rock n roll bands. Everyone's parents in the band are totally fine with Juke-box the Ghost. We don't really scare parents and aren't worried about anyone getting freaked out.

AH: What do you want for Christmas?

TS: That's a good question, I don't know honestly. It's funny, when I got to my late twenties I stopped thinking about what I wanted. I am just looking forward to coming home and spending time with the family. We do Hanukah and Christmas so it will be a nice long week.

THE CHICKEN AND THE EGG



Adelia Couser
Features Co-Editor

It will tear you down, emotionally and mentally. You will spend all your time thinking about it. You will pull your hair and smash your head against the wall trying to figure it out. "WHY ME?!" you'll scream at the sky, hair bloody and fingernails bitten, tortured eyes swimming with despair as the entire world crashes down around you.

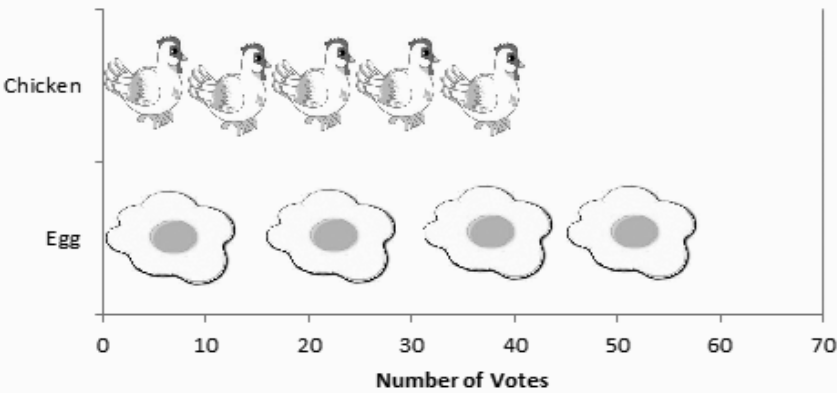
Yes, such is the nature of paradoxes.

By definition, a "paradox" is a seemingly true statement or group of statements that lead to a contradiction or a situation which seems to defy logic or intuition. American philosopher Williard Quine determined two basic types of paradoxes: Falsidical paradoxes (situations that are humanly impossible, because the different parts of the paradox cannot exist at the same time) and veridical paradoxes (situations that only appear to be impossible, but are actually true because they can be explained logically).

One common paradox is that of the chicken and the egg. Which came first, the chicken or the egg? is a question that at first seems easy to answer, but can quickly cause arguments among friends with differing opinions. A survey completed at ORHS indicated that a majority of students believe that the egg first came into existence.

(My favorite answer to that survey: "The chicken came before the 'chicken' egg, but eggs themselves came first.)

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?



THE DEBATE.

CHICKEN.

"You can't have an egg just appear; you need chickens to make it. Therefore the chicken came first."

"The chicken must have come before the egg because it had to lay the egg – the egg did not just exist..."

"It's the chicken because God designed all creatures."

"The chicken because it had to lay the egg."

"The chicken was a mutation of two other species."

EGG.

"Two different species of birds bred to create the egg, such as a turkey and a swallow."

"Eggs came before chickens. It's not specific as to chicken eggs, just 'eggs.'"

"The egg obviously came first, because a chicken

INDECISIVE PEOPLE/SMART-ALECKS.

"African or European chicken?"

"¡Brack Broooock Brocawk!"

"Both are wrong – chickens are not real."

"They just plopped into the world at the same



Adelia Couser
Features Co-Editor

HOROSCOPES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CAPRICORNS AND AQUARII!

Aries (March 21-April 19)

MOR staff matches (MSM): Liam Cooney (April 4), Alex Harling (March 30).

The stars predict that oversized chipmunks will not only mean bad luck, but almost certain DEATH for you this month. It is best to delay any preplanned winter picnics in local parks in which you intend to sit on a blanket with a brown picnic basket filled with yummy treats. Yes, we all know that deep down you’re a thrill-seeking spirit, but opt for a safe indoor Monopoly tournament instead.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

MSM: Adelia Couser (May 11), Chad Burns (May 18). While taking a “well-deserved” online break from your homework, you will accidentally click on one of those *You’re Our 10,000th Visitor!!!* ads. Don’t freak out, though—it’s real. Your family will immediately receive tickets to watch an adaptation of Keeping up with the Kardashians on ice, with special guests The Jonas Brothers and Big Bird from Sesame Street. Enjoy!

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

MSM: Matt Carey (May 24), Sophie Webb (May 22), Harry Slepian (May 26), Emmet Todd (May 30), Jennifer Taylor (June 10). That weird friend of yours (you know which one) will crash your holiday party and attempt to profess their undying love for you using oversized trombones and a very badly choreographed marching band. Be alert. Wearing all black and constantly shouting “NO!” on that day may help you avoid an embarrassing incident involving the tuba player’s toupee.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

MSM: Mr. Krauss (July 6). During your C period class (or D period, if you have C free), you will feel an unquenchable desire to leap atop the nearest table and organize your classmates into desk-rearranging teams. Proceed to give the room a hearty makeover—it needs one. In addition, when an Aquarius carrying an excessive amount of Cocoa Puffs approaches you and asks you to be friends, don’t refuse. Your fates are destined to intertwine in the approaching months.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

MSM: None. In the very near future, a sudden “95% off!” sale on Lindt seasonal chocolates will force you to reconsider every single one of your life goals. Spend all the money you’ve ever saved up on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and share the colossal amount of candy with no one—especially anybody with blue eyes.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

MSM: None. You will feel the urge to uncontrollably breakdance periodically in the following months, accompanied by a faint soundtrack of dubstep in your head that only you will hear. Bring out the inner street performer in yourself, but watch out for ice whenever you feel that WUB WUB WUB coming on.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

MSM: Ian Avery-Leaf (September 26), Mr. Kelly (September 27), Zander Hobbs (October 18). Look alive, sunshine! You’ve been pretty tired lately, but things will start to look up for you after the holiday break. A word of warning, however: when you’re walking in Portsmouth, ignore the hobo who hysterically demands that you eat his shoe. Ingesting that thing could bring about unpleasant consequences.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

MSM: Annika Barth (November 5), Kelsey Hails (November 19). Upon returning to your car after a rigorous bout of holiday shopping, you are heavily advised to speed-walk (like those moms you always see traveling on the wrong side of the road) in order to avoid a miniature yet ferocious poodle determined to bring you down. Avoid the excessively furry creature and defend your purchases by any means necessary.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

MSM: Christian Sbrilli (December 23). While carrying a hearty breakfast of Market Basket brand cornflakes, you will trip over a tragically misplaced golden life-size statue of your great-grandmother that you didn’t even know your family owned. Because you were also sashaying to a CD of corny Christmas songs at the moment, you will fall screaming to the ground in time with the music and subsequently crush the cornflakes. Your new lifestyle as a cereal killer has only just begun.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

MSM: Emerson MacLean (December 23). Santa Claus himself will offer to let you help him deliver presents on Christmas Eve, but you’ll be too busy doing extra homework and studying for that upcoming project (yeah, that one) to answer. Consequently, you will be kidnapped by his cheerful team of Christmas elves and brought to the North Pole, where Joan Jett and Simon Cowell will sing a duet of “Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire” just for you.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

MSM: Nick Chiodo (January 21), Billy Sturtevant (January 31), Katie Burzon (February 2), Genja Teleganov (February 6). This month has been pretty crazy for you, but it’s about to get even better: You will have an interdimensional experience with an albino giraffe riding a merry-go-round very soon! The stars seem to be pushing you toward someone with a Cancer sign—find one, befriend them, and bring him or her along for good luck. Also—be sure to bring plenty of Cocoa Puffs. Trust me on this one.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

MSM: None. As visions of sugarplums dance in your head this Christmas Eve, you will feel an almost painful urge to join those delicious candied treats. Do it. Don your grandmother’s old pink leotard and tutu and prance about the streets of Durham, singing Tiny Tim’s “Tip-toe Thru the Tulips with Me” at the top of your lungs. If you’re a boy, sing it in an octave higher than your natural voice.

HOW HOMEWORK IS CHANGING



Liam Cooney
Features Writer

Imagine a world with no homework. In the United States, the debate over whether homework should be given out or not is very alive. Regardless of whether students do their homework or not, homework affects all students in some way, whether it's your grade going up or down or your stress level. The question is if those effects are worth the possible benefits of homework.

There are a lot of different opinions out there. On one side, you have people who believe in banning homework, and on the other side you have people who find nothing wrong with it. As always, however, there is a substantial amount of people somewhere in the middle.

Time magazine points out that the trend since the 1950s is an increase in homework. Some may blame programs such as President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" or President Obama's "Race to the Top" for this.

One critic of homework is Alfie Kohn, author of *The Homework Myth*, who says in an article, *The Homework Debate*, by Johanna Sorentino on education.com, "The standards and accountability craze that has our students in its grip argues for getting tougher on children, making them do more mindless worksheets at earlier ages so that we can score higher on international assessments." He says, "It's not about learning; it's about winning."

According to the same article, the Kino school, in Tucson, AZ agrees with Kohn and has a no homework policy. "A lot of what we see kids doing is continuing to write in journals, practicing music with their friends, and taking experiments home to show their parents," says Mary Jane Cera an academic administrator for the school. So, at least from what she is telling us, it would appear an absence of homework doesn't disengage kids at this school.

What many people may find surprising, however, is that although both Kohn and Cera oppose the idea of homework, the students interviewed for this article believe that there is a place for it. When high school, middle school, and college students from a variety of different schools and districts were asked whether or not they would give out homework as a teacher, none of them answered "No," which shows that students aren't completely opposed to the idea of homework. But then how do you explain why some kids don't do their homework, and why so many others will do it, but either dislike or complain about it?

There are two answers to this question. One answer could be that kids feel like they receive excessive amounts of work. More than half of the students interviewed from multiple schools believed that they received too much homework. "I get very stressed about homework," says Adrian Schidlovsky, a junior here at Oyster River. Schidlovsky emphasized that he thought math teachers give out way too much work.

Another answer could be that students do not see the value of their homework. They consider it "busy work"- work that doesn't have a point and is simply given to be given. Most teachers would say they don't believe in busy work either, such as Mrs. Van Dyke, a social studies teacher here at Oyster River. She says, "I don't think it's right to give homework to just give homework." The problem is that although many teachers don't agree with the concept of busy work, many kids still seem to think that they are getting it. As Joshua Henry, a former student at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy and now a freshman at Utica says, "Most of the time [homework] doesn't do anything... It's busy work," he says, referring to the amount of homework he felt he received. So there seems to be a disconnect between some teachers and students about what exactly busy work is.

Some teachers seem to have some problems with homework and what it's become, and they have a somewhat different homework philosophy than most teachers. One of these teachers is our very own science teachers, Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence teaches both chemistry and biology, and he believes homework has become something that it shouldn't be over the past century. Halfway through last year, he started to exclude homework as part of students' grades. He adds that he still posts homework and whether or not students do it to PowerSchool, he just doesn't figure whether or not students do their homework into their final grades. The decision to exclude homework from students' grades came, at least in part, from conferences Mr. Lawrence attended. If a student wants to retake a quiz in Mr. Lawrence's class, they have to complete all of their homework first. He compares it to coaching; if a player doesn't practice, you don't let them play. If you don't do your homework, you might not get to retake a quiz.

Mr. Lawrence states that he never liked how homework works. However, he still says, "I think homework has its place." He views homework as practice; it is not supposed to determine whether you know something or not. "Some kids very purposefully don't do their homework," says Mr. Lawrence. He adds that he believes some kids put a lot of effort into it. As for kids who copy homework, he thinks that's just one more reason to not count homework as part of the grade. He doesn't think that the effort students put into homework has changed much since he stopped including homework as part of students' grades.

When looking at the big picture, there are a lot of different opinions out there regarding homework, but there isn't really any general consensus about what exactly should be done about it. The only way we will ever find a solution is if teachers, school boards, students, parents, and administrators have an open discussion about it.



*"I don't think it's right
to give homework to
just give homework."
- Mrs. Van Dyke*

P.E. FOR EVERYBODY?



Sophie Webb
News Co-editor

Each student at ORHS is required to graduate with at least one-and-a-half credits of physical education. This athletes who participate in one, two or even three seasons of sports. Gym is a required class, but many question if it should be.

Several students think that if a student plays two or more sports throughout the course of the school year, then they shouldn't be required to take P.E.

"I think the whole point of P.E. is to promote healthy and active lifestyles in students, and if they are a hardworking athlete

anyway, I don't think it's necessary for them to take time out of their school days," says sophomore Eliza Balch.

Both athletes and non-athletes seemed to agree with the idea of making P.E an elective for those who play sports, and a requirement for those who don't.

"Most importantly, P.E. is for everybody."

"[Gym] shouldn't be a required course, because then people can take more classes around the field they want to pursue," said junior Jamie Miller.



Freshmen Darien Castro, Marrisa Flynn, and Ashley Mitchell play broomball in gym class.

Junior Nathaniel Spence had an interesting take on the topic. "If [athletes] are doing that much activity, and if they were forced to take gym, then they might get worn out from their extra work. Perhaps a healthy compromise would be doing gym in the off-season."

Of course, the off-season would be different for all sports, but perhaps a schedule could be worked out for students who wish to both play sports and take Physical Education.

"I think [gym] should be a requirement unless you are on a sports team," said freshman Siobhan Slavin.

"I think [gym] should be a requirement unless you are on a sports team."

I know I can speak for myself and for others by saying that if you are on a sports team, it is a lot of work and exercise. To have gym every day can be tiring, especially if you have an important sporting event. Activities like using the exercise equipment can make you sore because you are not used to working those muscles, and being sore can potentially detract from your athletic performance.

With all this being said, it's not to say that gym is not enjoyable, and I'm sure that even if gym weren't a requirement, many students would still choose to take P.E.

After hearing from the students' perspective, it is only fair to hear from the gym teachers as well. As a whole, the gym teachers believe that gym should be a required class for students, athlete or not. "It is important to get exercise everyday," said gym teacher Amy McPhee.



The P.E. staff

stressed that gym is more than just exercise; it is also about teamwork, communication, and learning new sports. They went on to make the distinction between being on a team, which is often focused around winning and playing one certain sport, as compared to P.E, which focuses more on variety, teamwork, and giving every student an equal chance.

"We don't necessarily focus on winning only," said John Morin, gym teacher. "P.E. is for everybody...[it] is [an] entirely different concept than most team sports."

Mr. Maynard made the point that it is important to learn how to interact with peers.

"I don't want to see any separation," he said.

After speaking with the P.E. staff, I wanted to get a non-gym teacher's opinion.

Acting teacher Meredith Freeman-Caple commented, "I think [students] should [be required to take P.E.], because in gym you learn about different types of sports, like dance and more unique sports, and when you are on a team you just do one sport."



Freshman Darien Castro plays broomball in gym class.

The majority of the student body I spoke with seemed to think that physical education should not be a required class for students who play sports. However, many of the teachers thought that gym should be a required course because it values variety in sports and communication amongst peers. Both sides bring up good points and good concepts. The most important thing is for every student to lead an active life and get a sufficient amount of exercise.

"I think the whole point of P.E. is to promote healthy and active lifestyles in students, and if they are a hardworking athlete anyway, I don't think it's necessary for them to take time out of their school days."

AS YET UNTITLED HIPSTERS

ARTICLE



Harry Slepian
Op-Ed Writer

Christmas is fast approaching, so naturally I’ve made a wish list containing CDs from Avi Buffalo, Bon Iver and Dananananakroyd, Levis 510s, fair aisle sweaters, Pushing Daisies on DVD, and more books by Japanese surrealist author Haruki Murakami.

If you’re like a decent portion of Oyster River, your first thought might be Indie music, tight jeans, ugly sweaters, obscure television shows and books no one in their right mind would read? (Although, Haruki Murakami’s latest book sold 1 million copies in a month, which makes him pretty mainstream, as it is.) So, I regret to inform you that no, this does not necessarily make me, or anyone with similar tastes, a hipster.

I’d really like to be able to listen to Bombay Bicycle Club without feeling pretentious.

So if this doesn’t make me a hipster then what does? Well, the most

important thing to remember about hipsters is that they don’t just listen to music that can to be described as art-rock-experimental-post-punk-fight-pop-math-rock-post-hardcore-new-wave-emo-lo-fi or have the same taste in glasses as Buddy Holly; they just think that the fact that they do this makes them superior to the lowly people who like things in the mainstream.

To be more succinct, a hipster is someone who likes obscure, music, books, TV shows, anything else, and has superiority complex because of it. If anyone has ever brushed you off by disdainfully saying “You’ve probably never heard of it” then odds are you were talking to a hipster.

Alright, I’ll cop to whining unnecessarily about the top 40 and how the top rated TV show is NCIS, but I’m aware enough to realize that Katy Perry’s ET is an awesome song that should be put on repeat on my iPod for ungodly amounts of time. And trust me, just because I have the same tastes as hipsters, it doesn’t mean that I enjoy their company.

I like things because I enjoy them, hipsters like the same things because they know no one else has heard of it. I thought that Drive was a great movie because it was beautifully acted, shot, Ryan Gosling was amazing, and most because I couldn’t stop thinking about it for days after I had seen it. Hipsters like Drive because no one saw it.

The second reason is that for whatever reason, calling people hipsters has become so omnipresent that I can hardly tell someone that I loved Drive without them stopping me to say “What’s Drive? I’ve never heard of it! OhmyGod you’re such a hipster!”

Hipsters have given a stigma to pretty much anything indie or culty, and it makes it much harder to enjoy things un-self consciously. Sometimes even I begin to worry that I like something just because it’s indie, and not based on its merits as art. I’d really like to be able to listen to Bombay Bicycle Club without feeling pretentious.

I suppose the purpose of this article is to ask one thing of hipsters and another of everyone else.

To hipsters: Please, stop liking something just because it’s obscure and then hating it once it becomes popular. You aren’t shunning the norm; you’re just following another norm. Instead of insisting that you think for yourself because you only like things that aren’t mainstream, try actually thinking for yourself by trying things of all levels of popularity and exposure and actually deciding based on what you really like.

And everyone else: it would be much appreciated if you didn’t try to slap the hipster label on everyone who likes French movies or a band you don’t know. Maybe some of my music taste isn’t for everyone, but it’s only pretentious if I think that it’s not for everyone because I have a better understanding of good music than everyone else, and I don’t. And besides, there’s some very good, accessible music that just isn’t in the top forty.

What the real problem here is that people judge everything based on how popular it is. Can we all please agree to love our friends, hip and unhip, mainstream and obscure alike? Afterall, no one wants to be judged.

And finally, can we all agree to stop throwing around the word hipster willy-nilly? I personally would call myself an indie boy; hipsters are just too mainstream.



Some people really hate hipsters

WHAT MAKES A HIPSTER?

Doesn't make you a hipster	Makes you a hipster
Listening to Deathcab for Cutie	Listening to Deathcab for Cutie until they "sold out" in 2003
Wearing Wolf t-shirts	Wearing Wolf t-shirt s ironically
Being broke	Pretending to be broke while your parents pay for everything
Loving all forms of film phot ography	Hating all forms of digital photography
Having a useless major	Having a useless major just to make a statement

TO BE A MAN



Harry Slepian
Op-Ed Writer

too frequently think of feminism as basically female sexism

against men, that notion is as far from true feminism as possible. Feminism is simply the belief that women and men are equals, and that there are many ways to be a real woman besides what we think of as feminine behavior.

Masculinism is essentially the exact same thing. It isn't contradictory to feminism; it's compatible. Masculinism is the belief that women and men are equals, and that there are many ways to be a real man besides what we think of as masculine behavior.

If anyone were to think of what it means to be a real man (myself included), they would probably think of someone who hunts, fishes, eats lots of red meat, is probably heterosexual, and has unforgettably impressive facial hair.

Yes, that could describe a man, but not necessarily. Being a man is about having pride in your gender, and respect for others. I think that being a real man has nothing to do with your hobbies, clothes, or policy on the appropriateness of crying, and instead everything to do with your attitude.

I was, and still am, a pretty effeminate kid. In preschool my Barbie collection was bigger than both of my sisters combined, and I still subscribe to five different fashion magazines. In addition, I'm gay, which is often seen as being the single least manly quality one can have. Sure, I like action movies and contrary to popular belief always enjoyed football in gym, but even I never thought of myself as a man.

At Oyster River, we're lucky that people are relatively accepting of others regardless of whether they act how someone of their gender is "supposed to act." Unfortunately, society at large isn't at the same place.

In retail, men are consistently lumped together. There is a store in Portsmouth specifically for men, under the assumption that "men" and "rugged" are synonymous. I know

At first glance, the idea that there should be a movement for men analogous to feminism seems ridiculous. After all, men make more than women on average, and they are overwhelmingly represented in politics. What on earth is there for men to be whining about?

Well, an important thing to remember is that feminism isn't just about the work force and politics; it's largely a cultural and social idea. While people

plenty of women a whole lot more rugged than myself, and they are still women and I'm still a man.

Places like that are a bit insulting, but well-meaning. In Ikea, however, they've begun testing out "Manland" a place for men to stay and do man things, like eat hotdogs and play foosball, while women go off and do women things, like shop for furniture.

The assumption that all women want to spend their days buying lamps, and men never give a damn about how the house looks is embarrassingly outdated.

A recent ad for Old Spice is a picture of a guy in a sweater with a bowl of soup, but Old Spice turns him into an Amazonian warrior with a python wrapped around his neck

and a bowl of dynamite. Below it says "Find the Man Inside You."

Personally, I'm much closer to sweaters and soup than pythons and dynamite, and I'd like to think that I'm still a man despite that. I wouldn't even care if it said "Find the Awesomeness Inside You." It's not that I mind being told I'm not a badass, but I don't like being emasculated.

I understand that it's a joke, but imagine if there was an ad with a picture of a woman in jeans

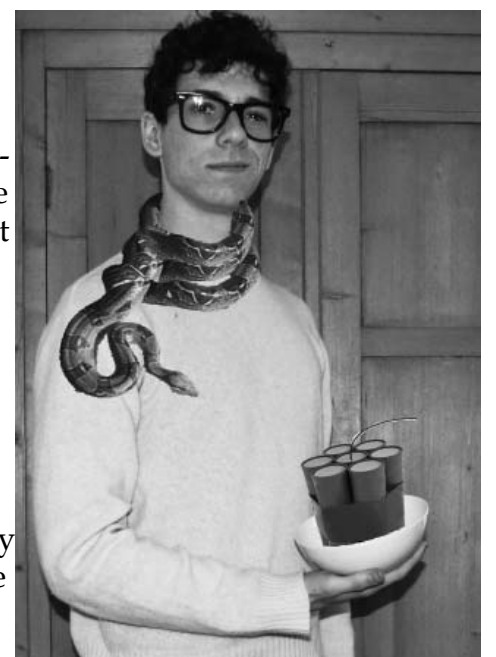
and a flannel turning into a 60s housewife a la Betty Draper captioned "Become a Real Woman." An ad like that would spurn so much outrage, it would likely never even make it to print.

That is the one place where, gender wise, women are easily less restricted than men. We understand that it is ridiculous to say that someone is only a woman if they fit into dated female stereotypes. It's about time we give men the same options.

In a perfect world we'd abandon the gender binary altogether and stop trying to say that you only get to be a man if you like trucks and a girl if you like dolls until then, I'm going to stick around telling anyone who will listen that yes, I think I'm a real man, even if I do read Vogue.



Manporium: No girls (or effeminate men) allowed?



Me, as a real man, with my python and dynamite soup.



Kelsey Hails
Op-Ed Writer

THE CLASS OF 2012

Why us?

The class of 2012, with few exceptions, such as being the first class of fifth graders to use the newly-built Middle School playground, has often received the short end of the stick. Regardless of who you are, what you do, and what you aspire to be, there's something for every senior that's a source of irritation.

This year, many classes, including a number of Advanced Placement classes, were removed. This doesn't impact me as much as some other students (I planned to take AP French, but I'm perfectly happy in French V). Many of the AP classes were removed largely due to funding cuts for the school, but also due to a smaller number of students signing up than usual. The school board has formed a new policy: they won't fund any classes with less than ten students (when I was in Choir my freshman year, back when there was a Jazz Choir and a Choir, it had seven people first semester and three second semester!) This is due to the relatively small senior class and the relatively large freshman class of 2015. Because there were more freshmen than usual, more classes were needed for them. It might not sound like a problem, but it led to almost twenty classes being cancelled, including AP U.S. History, AP Spanish, AP French, Advanced Chemistry, Advanced World Cultures and Advanced Publications as well as several other non-advanced classes such as Journalism II, Interior Design, and Intro to Art History. However, in one case, this did work out for the best. Journalism II is of course no longer a class, since only six people signed up for it, but as an after-school activity it has around twenty members.

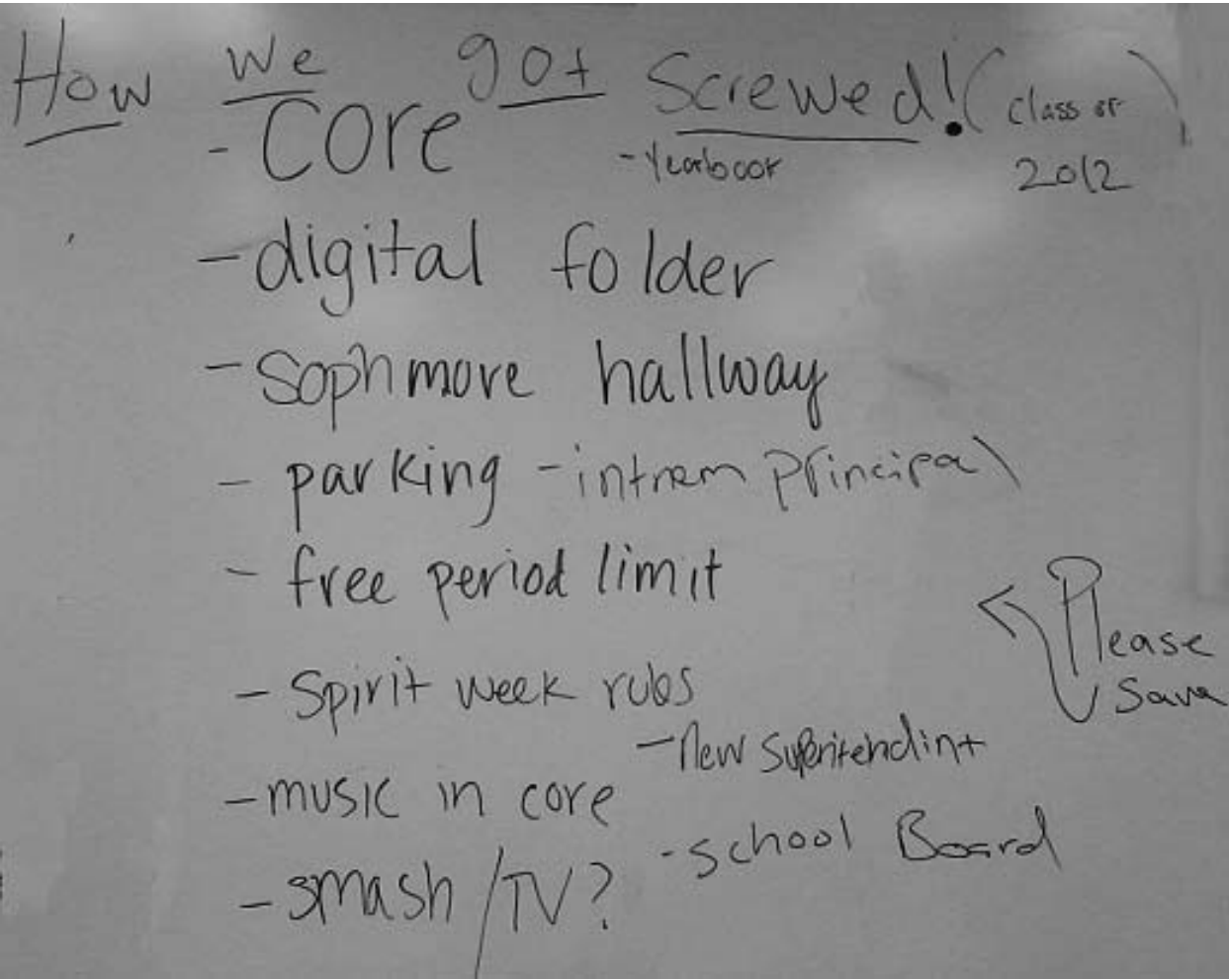
The restrictions on Field Day and Spirit Week have become much stricter since 2009, when we current seniors were freshmen. Students of any grade aren't allowed to decorate the cores or hallways. I remember crossing through the Senior Core my freshman year, gaping at all the impressive blue decorations it was adorned with, thinking "I can't wait until I can do that!".

Even the sophomores had some red decorations hanging in their hallway. Now there isn't even a "freshman hallway" or a "sophomore hallway." Until a couple years ago, the freshman class always had their lockers on the third floor. Now they're scattered about the school, including in and around the cores.

Seniors can only have one free period, whereas in past years they could have up to three free periods. This can be a problem for seniors who have already fulfilled their graduation requirements; for example, a friend of mine

was forced to take Study Skills because she already had one free period and couldn't fill the empty period with a class.

Also, this is the first year that seniors have had to make a digital portfolio, a new requirement added for students to graduate. Even though it's said this is a state requirement and not a school requirement, I've heard Portsmouth High School and



Mrs. Machanoff's Focus Group expresses some of its complaints.

Dover High School students do not need to do this. This tedious (though not horribly difficult) process involves uploading files such as word documents, power points and videos to an online portfolio on Mahara and writing about the documents and how they show growth and whatnot. Unfortunately, many students had to delete past files to clear up space in their student folders for new papers and projects.

Last year, the class of 2012 (who were then juniors) were unable to hang out in the core between classes due to a junior from the class of 2011 pulling the fire alarm as a prank during finals. Though seniors are, as always, allowed to hang out and have lunch in the Senior Core, it still remains a sore spot for some (myself, I hardly spent any time in the Junior Core at all).

So, is the first class of the new millennium (we started first grade in 2000) cursed with perpetual bad luck? Who knows? We all have things to be grateful for and things to gripe about, but is the class of 2012 any worse off than the others?

UNDERGROUND ENERGY



Annika Barth
Op-Ed Writer

After the storm in late October left about 300,000 people without power, some for almost two weeks in Connecticut, it is hard not to ask, “why can’t we just stick all the power lines underground away from wind and trees? It would save everyone a heck of a lot of inconvenience and money – wouldn’t it?”

It may look that way, but sadly, recent calculations reported by local media have proven otherwise. To bury almost all the power lines in New Hampshire would cost the state \$43 billion, and would take over 40 years to do so. Per customer, the average cost would be \$68,313 for PSNH, \$72,563 for NH Electric Co-op, \$69,140 for Unitil, and \$34,746 for National Grid. For these reasons, Tom Frantz (the director of the electric division of Public Utilities Commission) was reported locally as saying, “It’s hard to envision getting an economic case to bury all the power lines in New Hampshire.” The overwhelming cost, along with environmental concerns such as soil erosion and damage to sensitive underground habitats, are a few of the negative setbacks of underground utilities, cost being the chief complication.

Without a generator or huddled in the dark by the fireplace unable to shower, it’s easy to hope that perhaps the vast costs would be soaked up over the years if power companies no longer had to trim trees and repair downed power lines. In 2010, PSNH spent about \$14 million trimming trees, and they trim along more than 2,500 miles per year. The ice storm of 2008 caused \$155.3 million worth of damage, which would not have affected any power line system underground. If other economic factors had been known at the time - such as loss of income, revenue and profit due to the power outage disruption - that number would have been greater. Lower tree-trimming and storm damage costs, along with improved visual appeal and fewer outages, are all benefits of underground power utilities.

During our most recent storm in October, there was damage done to an underground power system. Although they are not prone to causes of overhead outages like fallen branches, underground utilities are also susceptible to damage from flooding and uprooted trees.

A 2007 study in Florida came to same the conclusion: although it may be much more convenient for customers, the costs make underground utilities impractical unless they are placed in specific areas where trees are especially hazardous. In fact, according to Robin Mower, a Durham town councilor, all new developments are required to place power utilities underground, and it remains an option for homeowners.



Due to the increasing frequency and inconvenience of these long-lasting power outages, I believe that, if they continue to occur, the state could end up saving money and time over the years if overhead power lines are transferred underground. That opinion is relatively hard to back up, considering the fact that very little analysis has been done on large scale underground utilities because very few exist. But perhaps the state could begin slowly and transfer those lines most exposed to tree limbs first before transferring more. Perhaps only transferring a select few would not only bring down the cost, but also the number of customers affected, and the amount of time they would need to wait before their power returned.

AN INCONVENIENT CHANGE

Five out of seven mornings, I am jolted awake by the unpleasant blaring of my alarm clock. I slam my fist down on top of it and wish for another hour or two of sleep, just like many other students my age. In fact, as many people know, research shows that if teenagers had an extra two hours of sleep, they would be healthier, happier and more likely to improve their grades. That is why some schools, including Oyster River, have considered beginning the school day at 8:00am or possibly even 9:00am.

Of course, starting the school day at a later time would mean ending the school day at a later time, and that makes the idea less than appealing to me. If sleep deprivation is the issue that we are trying to address, then I don’t think starting school later will help. If anything, students will end up going to bed later and will not receive any more sleep than they do currently. The extra time in the afternoon that students will spend at school is time that they can no longer use to get homework done, and they will therefore have to stay up later to finish it. Teenagers generally prefer to stay up late, with or without homework, and they may see a later start time as an opportunity to stay up later which, again, offers no added hours of sleep.

Not only do I think the change will end up offering little opportunity for more sleep, I also think it will pose a major inconvenience for students and their par-

ents in the afternoon. Many parents rely on older students to watch their younger siblings before they get home from work, and keeping high school and middle school students later in the afternoon may make them unable to do that. Students who participate in after school activities get home late enough as it is, and they would get home even later with an extended school day, leaving less time for family, friends, homework, leisure time and jobs. Also, students playing sports would have to attend practice in the morning rather than in the afternoon, which would be very inconvenient for athletes. Having practice in the morning would also force students to wake up earlier and consequently lose more sleep.

Personally, my schedule would be negatively affected if school started and consequently ended later. Right now I am able to finish my homework, eat dinner, shower, practice my guitar and perform other tasks in time to get to bed at a perfect hour; any earlier and I’d have trouble falling asleep, any later and I’d be exhausted in the morning. Pushing school hours later into the day would only make life more hectic and crammed with less time to get done what needs to get done. Because of this, I think beginning school later would only be an inconvenience and pose many complications for students and their parents without accomplishing its intended goal.

21st-century learning encourages changes in our traditional educational system based on current research to make school days as purposeful and effective as possible. Introducing a whole new structure for the school day, more online classes and reassessing the value of homework are all ways of improving the effectiveness of a school day. The way I see it, moving the current structure of the day to a later time is a minor change with large, disruptive side effects on students, teachers and parents. It does little to improve the productivity of the day.



Cassidy Carmichael shows the difference
between late and early start times.



**Kelsey Hails
Op-Ed Writer**

We've all heard about internships. In fact, in Economics, you're actually required to do a one-day internship (ironically, the graphic design company I was supposed to shadow never answered any of my or Mrs. Healy's e-mails, so I never had to do it). An internship is a program

where someone receives on-the-job training for a career. Interns are generally college students, but they can also be high school students or adults who already graduated who are interested in exploring a new field. Some interns get paid for their work, which is called a paid internship. I'm one of those.

When Seacoast Rejuvenation Center, a medical spa in Portsmouth, had an opening for a graphic design internship, I jumped at the chance. Eventually, this summer internship led to employment; I now work there on the weekends and weekdays when I don't have school, since by the time I got there on a school day, I'd only be able to work less than an hour. Not only do I earn

money, but this internship-turned-job will look great on my college applications and any future resumes I fill out. My daily set-up tasks to keep the front office, the part where I work, looking as clean as it does. This involves

cleaning and refilling the

bubbler, restocking the scent dispensers on the wall, organizing the desks, and sorting papers. I know the most about technology out of my coworkers, so I'm almost always the one to sort out any technical mishaps, including defragging the computers, installing programs, transferring images from camera to computer, and sorting out other issues and malfunctions. Other computer-related tasks involve updating the Facebook and Twitter pages for the business, as well as maintaining the website. For someone who loves working with computers, it's like a dream job.

Much of my work involves marketing and of course, design. I design and write e-mails, flyers, postcards, and send out mailings (You know those advertisements

I LOVE MY JOB!

and offers you get in the mail? Doing those is part of my job.). At Seacoast Rejuvenation Center, we do the process by hand. I print out the postcards (some of which I have designed and typed), write out the addresses, stamp them, and mail them. Even though



The front office is right in view of my desk. Doesn't it look nice?

we have a very organized file management system, it can be tricky to look up the address of a client if it isn't in the computer. Many times I've had to manually go through past records to find information. (The whole

process is much more fun than it sounds!).

One of the highlights of my job is designing e-mails. I do this on a mass-mailing program website. My boss and I usually do this together, so she can directly critique and refine any aspects of the e-mail. It's very helpful to have immediate feedback while working, and I enjoy refining my work this way. Since I want to be an Art and English major, it's a perfect combination of both of my interests.

Though it's not a high-stress job, things move at a pretty brisk pace. I almost never have downtime, and for me, that's a good thing. Each day brings its own set of tasks with it: I might have to make an e-mail advertising a sale one day, then design a coupon to be printed in a local newspaper the next. Though my coworkers do a number of different things related to the medical spa aspect of the business, I'm on very good terms with them, and we often help each other out when the need arises. Very rarely do things get boring or repetitive.

This internship made last summer one of the best of my life, and I'm very thankful towards Seacoast Rejuvenation Center for giving me this opportunity. If anyone ever asked me if they should do an internship, I'd highly recommend it.



The Seacoast Rejuvenation Center logo



Christian Sbrili and Emerson MacLean;
Guest Writers

who are stuck in the never ending cycle of boring sports, we offer you the escape.

The escape can be found in belittled sports such as worm grunting, shuffleboard, and scooting. Until now these sports have all been disregarded as petty past times. Wipe that ridiculous mindset from your brain, because it isn't true!

"Well I guess you could say I have worms!"

"Well I guess you could say I have worms!" said Oyster River Senior, and competitive worm grunter, Elliot Young. Worm grunting also known as worm charming, and worm fiddling are methods of attracting earthworms from the ground. The activity is usually performed to collect bait for fishing but can also take the form of a competitive sport. So, how exactly does one "grunt"?

Well, for starters, you need some moist soil and a good attitude! The main principle behind worm grunting is vibrating the soil and making worms rise to the surface. The activity is known by several different names and the apparatus and techniques vary significantly.

The classic method of worm grunting requires the use of a "stob", a wooden stake that is driven into the ground, and a "rooping iron" which is used to rub the stob.



An avid biscuit tanger on the court.

type" eh? Well never fear, there are are several other options for you to choose from.

Have you ever considered shuffleboard? Shuffleboard, more precisely deck shuffleboard, also known as shuffleboard, shovelboard, shovel-board and shove-board, is a game in which players use broom-shaped paddles (tang) to push weighted pucks (biscuits), sending them gliding down a narrow elongated court.

SPORTS YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT!

What do soccer, lacrosse, hockey, football, and track all have in common? They are all generic and everyone plays them. Have you ever imagined the escape of these boring sports? If you are one of the many

The purpose is to have them come to a rest within a marked scoring area. Recently many youths have been influenced by their wise and experienced grandparents. They have formulated their own "hip" version of the sport, they call it "Biscuit Tang." Biscuit tang is an exceptional sport.

Oyster River Juniors Andrew Berube and Thomas Caulfield may not be the best of friends during school hours, but as soon as that last bell rings they begin their trek to the shuffleboard court. Berube shouts, and with that, the game commences.

"TANG THAT BISCUIT, TANG THAT BISCUIT!"

Have you seen "Sk8er bois" such as Oyster River Junior, Jack Lombard (a.k.a "The Jack Hammer" or "Blood Wizard Lombardi"), strutting in the hallways and cruising around town on a skateboard?

Ever wish you could be like him? Well, Oyster River Senior Elliot Young has. "Gee, I feel if that board those boys ride only had two of its wheels taken away a handle bar to help with my balance, maybe I could ride one!" Well, if you are like Elliot, there is a sport for you! This sport is known as "scooting". Scooting is simple, all you need is a razor scooter and a good attitude.

For years scooting has been considered the bastard child of skating sports, but recently it has evolved into an underground movement. This movement incorporates many types of people from all age groups. The movement need support, so I suggest you hope aboard!

In the end, what is a sport really?

Is it a game played amongst neighborhood buddies, a serious competition between countries, or is it just an exertion of sweat and muscle (as seen by many between Caulfield and Berube)?

No, it's none of these things but all of them at the same time.

After all, like Forrest Gump said, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gunna' get."



Peter Dube diligently "fiddling" in his backyard.

"I hardly go anywhere without my trusty stob and rooping iron," says Oyster River junior Peter Dube, "We are always looking for new grunters to enter the 'grunt' scene, so grab your rooping iron and stob and come grunt with me!"

Not exactly the "Gruntin



Josh Dustin presents his beloved scooter, "Red Rider" to the camera



Junior Jack Lombard does a "gap" in his seated Razor scooter.

Photo Credit: Chad Burns

SPORTS PREVIEWS

INDOOR TRACK PREVIEW

Sports editor Nick Chiodo

The Indoor track team wins the Division II championship! This was the headline in last year’s paper and hopefully will be in this year’s too. One of this year’s seniors, Alex Johnson, has been running track his entire high school career “Track for me is one of the only sports that requires pure athleticism. It’s all about becoming the most efficient and powerful you can be; that is why I like it.” he said.

Coach Nick Ricciardi is a veteran indoor/outdoor track coach and is very passionate about the sport. This year, the hope for the entire track team is to have even more people qualify for states, and to win “States” for the second year in a row. Coach Ricciardi commented: “This year I hope to win “States” again, but not have people say that we only won because of a false start. It will be like redemption for us to win again, and show every one that we deserve it.” Every year, the team is constantly improving and pushing the bar in hopes that this will be their best year yet.

The distance indoor track team has just come off of a great cross-country season, and hopes to follow that with a great indoor season. Coached by legend Greg Gephart, the team also hopes to qualify for “States” and finish on top.



Alex Johnson running track

SWIMMING PREVIEW

Guest Writer Jenny Taylor

Hopes are high for the Swimming and Diving team, with the season well on its way with the Icebreaker Invitational. Although some worry about the loss of so many talented seniors, both Joe Lane and Emma Rotner assure that the team will be stronger than ever: “The guys team will be really strong just like last year, we lost a few seniors but also picked up some talent off the streets of Dunbarton. We are hoping to win states, and also break the 2 medley relay state record,” Lane says. Rotner, speaking on behalf of the girls on the team, says, “I think that the girls team will be really strong again. It’s definitely a much smaller team this year, because we lost a lot of seniors last year, which will make things a little more challenging. However, if we can get a couple more people to qualify for states we’ll definitely have a good shot at being really competitive.” And who are the strong competitors this year? For the guys, Lane says, “Souhegan at the Division II level, but then also Bishop Guertin and Concord at the State level,” and for the girls, “Lebanon (they beat us in states last year), Souhegan, and Saint Thomas is supposed to be really strong this year,” Rotner explains. With star guys Joel Bates, Alex Jones, Parker Eastman, Joe Lane, Drew Thibault, Scott Fillion, and girls Julie Roehrig, Haley Jones, Megan Shannon, Emily Howard, and Abby Howard getting ready to lead

the team to accomplish a fourth year state championship for the guys and a third for the girls, Joe Lane is excited to prove “that we are just as capable as last year, if not even stronger. I expect everyone will swim really fast.”



Alex Jones swimming
Photo Credit: Rachel Murphy

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Guest writer Cody Kontitanko

The Oyster River boys basketball team is coming off a loss to Pelham in last year’s Quarterfinals. This years’ team only has four returning players in junior guard Anthony Shea, senior guard Nick Diveglia, senior forward Ian Szilagyi and senior center Liam Grenier. The Bobcat roster consists of 2 seniors, 9 juniors and 1 sophomore.

Projected Starting Lineup:

- G Nick Diveglia (5 foot 10 inch senior)
- G Anthony Shea (5 foot 11 inch junior)
- F Chris Gallant (6 foot 3 inch sophomore)/ Zach Jones (5 foot 11 inch junior)
- F Jacob Smith (6 foot 4 inch junior)
- C Liam Grenier (6 foot 5 inch senior)

Key Substitutes: junior guard/forward Zack Jones Oyster River sophomore guard/forward Chris Gallant, junior forward Sam Lewis, junior guard Zach Park, junior guard Frankie Mullin, and junior guard/forward Chase Klewicki

Rounding out the Roster: junior guard Eric Leslie, junior guard Seamus Clancy, senior forward Ian Szilagyi.

What to Watch For: The Bobcats strength in their starting backcourt, where experienced guards Anthony Shea and Nick Diveglia will look to dominate defensively and score often. According to junior guard Zach Park, another strength of the Bobcats is on the defensive end. Park said “ We play good help(defense) and we've got great perimeter on ball defenders...”. Junior guard Anthony Shea agreed with Park saying “defense is our top priority, and are top strength”. An area of concern for Oyster River is the lack of height off the bench for the Bobcats. The Bobcats have three potential starting players over 6 foot 3, but when they get in foul trouble, who will replace them? Of the bench is forward Sam Lewis. Lewis is great defensively, and will always give 100% effort 100% of time, but he needs to work hard on improving offensively. The starting small forward position is still up for grabs, with sophomore forward/ guard Chris Gallant and junior forward Zack Jones. Gallant can shoot and rebound better, but Jones is better defensively and is better at driving and passing.

Prediction: The Bobcats will go as far as their frontcourt will take them. In order to be a contender, the Bobcats will need to have monster seasons from forward Jake Smith, and center Liam Grenier. The inexperienced Bobcats bench, led by Zach Park and Sam Lewis, will have no players who have played in a Varsity game on it. This will lead to a slow start for the Bobcats, while the bench gets adjusted to the Varsity level. Overall the Bobcat's will have an average season, hovering around 500 the entire way. The Bobcats will end the season 10-8 and will earn a coveted home playoff game. They will win their first game, but their inexperience will hurt them, as they lose once again in the Quarter Finals.



Liam Grenier dunking
Photo Credit: Rachel Murphy

SKI TEAM PREVIEW

Guest writer Emmet Todd

Oyster River ski team started dry lands along with most other winter teams. The team has grown over the past few years. The team has almost doubled in the past few years. There are over 40 kids trying out this year. This has posed a problem, for the first time in the team's history there will need to be cuts. The cuts are happening because there is just not enough room for 40 people on a school bus with close to 50 pairs of skis and 40 boot bags. Another problem is getting people through the gates on the mountain. There would be more standing around then skiing and people already complain about being cold.

Last year, as a way to keep more people on the team, there was a varsity team and a development team. The development team is for people that need a little practice with their skiing. They would practice but wouldn't race. This meant people didn't need to be cut. This was good for the team because it keep everyone together, the team is very closely knit.

This year has already been different than past years. The team has pulled it together and got apparel. The seniors have been wanting to get apparel since they joined the team but never have. There have also been talks about getting a grill to cook some hotdogs on the slope during races. The seniors have added a bit of seriousness to the team that has been lacking for the most part.

With races coming up and no snow on the ground yet it has made it hard for the team to get on snow training. The team plans to have a couple of races before Christmas break. Once there is snow on the mountains, there will be practices every Tuesdays and Thursdays at Gunstock. Races will be once a week, with a couple full day races at gunstock. There

are only nine races on the schedule then states. This means that every race counts. The team should do well this year but everyone on the team is looking forward to the time we get to spend with each other on the slopes and just being able to ski with friends.



Kevin Quinn jumping on skis
Photo Credit: Cody Jacobsen

HOCKEY PREVIEW

Guest writer Katie Burzon

The ORHS Hockey season has started and the team is looking ahead into their promising future. "This season will be good," says Assistant Captain and Senior, Sam Smith. However, Smith admits that this year will require much more effort than the past years, "Everyone is going to have to step up their game. We will definitely need to work harder than over the past four years." Smith admits one of the teams downfalls is their lack of goal scorers, he acknowledges that there are not many "go-to" goal scorers "but rather lots of guys who can skate well." Smith says that the players to look out for are Ryan Bishop (Senior, forward), Owen Allen (Senior, defense) and Griffin Sperry (Junior, forward). "This year we have a younger team," says Smith. "There are lots of new comers to varsity and they'll have to learn to play up to the varsity level." Smith notes that Jordan Petro and Cooper Smith are Freshman to look out for.



Nick Smith skating with the hockey team
Photo Credit: Rachel Murphy